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purchase information and the means for receiving payment information are a file transfer protocol connection over a network.

REMARKS

The above amendment cancels claims 1-14 and 19-22 and adds new claims 23-43. These amendments are believed not to narrow the claims. Further, the amendments are fully supported in the application as filed.

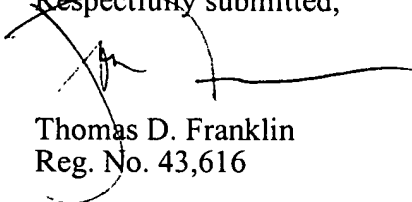
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 1-13 have been canceled without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.\

14. (As Filed) A method for facilitating an electronic purchase comprising:

receiving purchase information from a vendor, the purchase information including a purchase price;

receiving purchaser information from a purchaser, the purchaser information including an identification of a purchaser account;

validating the purchaser information;

wherein if the purchaser information is validated,

sending a digital IOU to the vendor; and

a step for redeeming the digital IOU.

15. (As Filed) The method of claim 14 wherein the step for redeeming the digital IOU further comprises the steps of:

receiving the digital IOU from the vendor;

confirming the digital IOU;

receiving funds from the purchaser account equal to the digital IOU into a funds transfer account; and

transferring the funds to the vendor from the funds transfer account.

16. (As Filed) The method of claim 14 wherein if the purchaser information is not validated, sending a message to the purchaser that the electronic purchase is denied.

17. (As Filed) The method of claim 14 wherein if the purchaser information is not validated, further comprising a step for adding the purchaser to a purchaser database.

18. (As Filed) The method of claim 15 wherein the step for confirming the digital IOU comprises comparing a digital signature on the digital IOU to a signature log at a funds transfer system.

Claims 19-22 have been canceled without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

New claim 23 had been added as follows.

23. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the computer-implementable method for facilitating an electronic purchase of claim 14.

New claim 24 has been added as follows.

24. (New) A method for transferring funds from a payor to a payee as part of a checkout process, the method comprising steps of:

receiving payment information with a funds transfer system, the payment information including payee identification, payor identification and payment amount;

validating the payment information at the funds transfer system;

notifying the payor that the payment information is not valid if the validating step is unsuccessful; and

transferring funds from a payor account to a payee account through the funds transfer system if the payment information is validated.

New claim 25 has been added as follows.

25. (New) The method for transferring funds from the payor to the payee as part of the checkout process as recited in claim 24, the method further comprising a step of notifying the payee of the funds transfer.

New claim 26 has been added as follows.

26. (New) The method for transferring funds from the payor to the payee as part of the checkout process as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for validating the payment information comprises a step of checking the payor identification and the payee identification against a user database at the funds transfer system.

New claim 27 has been added as follows.

27. (New) The method for transferring funds from the payor to the payee as part of the checkout process as recited in claim 26, wherein the user database includes account information for the payor and the payee.

New claim 28 has been added as follows.

28. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the computer-implementable method for transferring funds from the payor to the payee as part of the checkout process of claim 24.

New claim 29 has been added as follows.

29. (New) An electronic transaction method for transferring funds from a user account to a vendor account to compensate the vendor for a purchase selected by a user while accessing a vendor system online and after the user selects from the vendor system a payment option associated with a funds transfer system, the method comprising steps of:

establishing a connection from the funds transfer system to the user during checkout of the user with the vendor system, wherein the funds transfer system is separate from the vendor system;

receiving purchase data from the vendor system with the funds transfer system;

requesting validation from the user for the purchase;

receiving with the funds transfer system validation information from the user;

checking the validation information at the funds transfer system against a database; and

transferring funds from the user account to the funds transfer system if the step of checking the validation information is successful; and

transferring funds from the funds transfer system to the vendor account.

New claim 30 has been added as follows.

30. (New) The electronic transaction method for transferring funds from the user account to the vendor account to compensate the vendor for the purchase selected by the user while accessing the vendor system online and after the user selects from the vendor system the payment option associated with the funds transfer system as recited in claim 29, further comprising a step of returning a message to the user denying the purchase if the step of checking the validation information is unsuccessful.

New claim 31 has been added as follows.

31. (New) The electronic transaction method for transferring funds from the user account to the vendor account to compensate the vendor for the purchase selected by the user while accessing the vendor system online and after the user selects from the vendor system the payment option associated with the funds transfer system as recited in claim 29, further comprising a step of modifying account information in the

database associated with the user if the step of checking the validation information is unsuccessful.

New claim 32 has been added as follows.

32. (New) The electronic transaction method for transferring funds from the user account to the vendor account to compensate the vendor for the purchase selected by the user while accessing the vendor system online and after the user selects from the vendor system the payment option associated with the funds transfer system as recited in claim 29, wherein at least one of the user account and the vendor account is a bank account.

New claim 33 has been added as follows.

33. (New) The electronic transaction method for transferring funds from the user account to the vendor account to compensate the vendor for the purchase selected by the user while accessing the vendor system online and after the user selects from the vendor system the payment option associated with the funds transfer system as recited in claim 29, wherein the user account is a credit card account.

New claim 34 has been added as follows.

34. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the computer-implementable method for transferring funds from the user account to the vendor account to compensate the vendor for the purchase selected by the user while accessing the vendor system online and after the user selects from the vendor system the payment option associated with the funds transfer system of claim 29.

New claim 35 has been added as follows.

35. (New) A method for authorizing an electronic purchase during checkout with a user and a vendor system, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving purchase information from the vendor system, wherein the purchase information comprises a purchase price;
- requesting payment information from the user;
- receiving payment information from the user with funds transfer system;
- validating the payment information with the funds transfer system;
- crediting a vendor account in a first amount that corresponds to the purchase price if the step of validating payment information is successful; and
- debiting a user account a second amount that corresponds to the purchase price if the step of validating payment information is successful.

New claim 36 has been added as follows.

36. (New) The method for authorizing the electronic purchase during checkout with the user and the vendor system as recited in claim 35, wherein the vendor account and/or the user account are bank accounts.

New claim 37 has been added as follows.

37. (New) The method for authorizing the electronic purchase during checkout with the user and the vendor system as recited in claim 35, wherein the vendor account and/or the user account are credit card account.

New claim 38 has been added as follows.

38. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the computer-implementable method for authorizing the electronic purchase during checkout with the user and the vendor system of claim 35.

New claim 39 has been added as follows.

39. (New) A funds transfer system for paying a vendor in a transaction with a purchaser, wherein the vendor uses a vendor system and the purchaser uses a purchaser system during the transaction, the funds transfer system comprising:

a first connection with a vendor system;

a second connection with a purchaser system;

means for validating the transaction, wherein the purchase validation means comprises:

a machine readable medium having a database comprising purchaser information and vendor information;

means for receiving purchase information from the vendor system;

means for receiving payment information from the purchaser system; and

means for comparing the payment information and the purchase information against the database; and

means for paying the vendor for the purchase.

New claim 40 has been added as follows.

40. (New) The funds transfer system for paying the vendor in the transaction with the purchaser as recited in claim 39, wherein:

the means for paying the vendor comprises a connection to an automated clearing house, and

the automated clearing house transfers funds from a purchaser account to a funds transfer account and from a funds transfer account to a vendor account.

New claim 41 has been added as follows.

41. (New) The funds transfer system for paying the vendor in the transaction with the purchaser as recited in claim 39, wherein the purchase information is

selected from the group consisting of vendor identification, name of goods and purchase price.

New claim 42 has been added as follows.

42. (New) The funds transfer system for paying the vendor in the transaction with the purchaser as recited in claim 39, wherein the payment information is selected from the group consisting of financial information of the purchaser, purchaser identification, a password, a name, and an address.

New claim 43 has been added as follows.

43. (New) The funds transfer system for paying the vendor in the transaction with the purchaser as recited in claim 39, wherein the means for receiving purchase information and the means for receiving payment information are a file transfer protocol connection over a network.